

§ 502.63 Reparation; statute of limitations.

(a) Complaints seeking reparation pursuant to section 22 of the Shipping Act, 1916 shall be filed within two (2) years after the cause of action accrues.

(b) Complaints seeking reparation pursuant to section 11 of the Shipping Act of 1984 shall be filed within three years after the cause of action accrues.

(c) The Commission will consider as in substantial compliance with a statute of limitations a complaint in which complainant alleges that the matters complained of, if continued in the future, will constitute violations of the shipping acts in the particulars and to the extent indicated and in which complainant prays for reparation accordingly for injuries which may be sustained as a result of such violations. (See §§ 502.251–502.253 and Exhibit No. 1 to subpart O.)

(d) Notification to the Commission that a complaint may or will be filed for the recovery of reparation will not constitute a filing within the applicable statutory period.

(e) A complaint is deemed filed on the date it is received by the Commission. [Rule 63.]

§ 502.64 Answer to complaint; counter-complaint.

(a) Respondent shall file with the Commission an answer to the complaint and shall serve it on complainant as provided in subpart H of this part within twenty (20) days after the date of service of the complaint by the Commission or within thirty (30) days if such respondent resides in Alaska or beyond the Continental United States, unless such periods have been extended under § 502.71 or § 502.102, or reduced under § 502.103, or unless motion is filed to withdraw or dismiss the complaint, in which latter case, answer shall be made within ten (10) days after service of an order denying such motion. Such answer shall give notice of issues controverted in fact or law. Recitals of material and relevant facts in a complaint, amended complaint, or bill of particulars, unless specifically denied in the answer thereto, shall be deemed admitted as true, but if request is seasonably made, a competent witness

shall be made available for cross-examination on such evidence.

(b) In the event that respondent should fail to file and serve the answer within the time provided, the presiding officer may enter such rule or order as may be just, or may in any case require such proof as he or she may deem proper, except that the presiding officer may permit the filing of a delayed answer after the time for filing the answer has expired, for good cause shown.

(c) A form of answer to complaint is set forth in Exhibit No. 2 to this subpart. [Rule 64.]

(d) In addition to filing an answer to a complaint, respondent may file a counter-complaint alleging violations of the Shipping Acts within the jurisdiction of the Commission. The filing of counter-complaints and answers to counter-complaints is governed by the rules and requirements of § 502.62 (excluding fees) and of this section for the filing of complaints and answers. Counter-complaints may be served directly by the parties if authorized by the presiding officer.

[49 FR 44369, Nov. 6, 1984, as amended at 58 FR 27210, May 7, 1993]

§ 502.65 Replies to answers not permitted.

Replies to answers will not be permitted. New matters set forth in respondent's answer will be deemed to be controverted. [Rule 65.]

§ 502.66 Order to show cause.

The Commission may institute a proceeding by order to show cause. The order shall be served upon all persons named therein, shall include the information specified in § 502.143, may require the person named therein to answer, and shall require such person to appear at a specified time and place and present evidence upon the matters specified. [Rule 66.]

§ 502.67 [Reserved]

§ 502.68 Declaratory orders and fee.

(a)(1) The Commission may, in its discretion, issue a declaratory order to terminate a controversy or to remove uncertainty.

(2) Petitions for the issuance thereof shall: state clearly and concisely the

controversy or uncertainty; name the persons and cite the statutory authority involved; include a complete statement of the facts and grounds prompting the petition, together with full disclosure of petitioner's interest; be served upon all parties named therein; and conform to the requirements of subpart H of this part.

(3) Petitions shall be accompanied by remittance of a \$177 filing fee.

(b) Petitions under this section shall be limited to matters involving conduct or activity regulated by the Commission under statutes administered by the Commission. The procedures of this section shall be invoked solely for the purpose of obtaining declaratory rulings which will allow persons to act without peril upon their own view. Controversies involving an allegation of violation by another person of statutes administered by the Commission, for which coercive rulings such as payment of reparation or cease and desist orders are sought, are not proper subjects of petitions under this section. Such matters must be adjudicated either by filing of a complaint under section 22 of the Shipping Act, 1916 or section 11 of the Shipping Act of 1984 and § 502.62, or by filing of a petition for investigation under § 502.69.

(c) Petitions under this section shall be accompanied by the complete factual and legal presentation of petitioner as to the desired resolution of the controversy or uncertainty, or a detailed explanation why such can only be developed through discovery or evidentiary hearing.

(d) Replies to the petition shall contain the complete factual and legal presentation of the replying party as to the desired resolution, or a detailed explanation why such can only be developed through discovery or evidentiary hearing. Replies shall conform to the requirements of § 502.74 and shall be served pursuant to subpart H of this part.

(e) No additional submissions will be permitted unless ordered or requested by the Commission or the presiding officer. If discovery or evidentiary hearing on the petition is deemed necessary by the parties, such must be requested in the petition or replies. Requests shall state in detail the facts to be de-

veloped, their relevance to the issues, and why discovery or hearing procedures are necessary to develop such facts.

(f)(1) A notice of filing of any petition which meets the requirements of this section shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The notice will indicate the time for filing of replies to the petition. If the controversy or uncertainty is one of general public interest, and not limited to specifically named persons, opportunity for reply will be given to all interested persons including the Commission's Bureau of Enforcement.

(2) In the case of petitions involving a matter limited to specifically named persons, participation by persons not named therein will be permitted only upon grant of intervention by the Commission pursuant to § 502.72.

(3) Petitions for leave to intervene shall be submitted on or before the reply date and shall be accompanied by intervenor's complete reply including its factual and legal presentation in the matter.

(g) Petitions for declaratory order which conform to the requirements of this section will be referred to a formal docket. Referral to a formal docket is not to be construed as the exercise by the Commission of its discretion to issue an order on the merits of the petition. [Rule 68.]

[49 FR 44369, Nov. 6, 1984; 49 FR 47394, Dec. 4, 1984, as amended at 59 FR 59170, Nov. 16, 1994; 61 FR 51233, Oct. 1, 1996; 63 FR 50535, Sept. 22, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 63 FR 50535, Sept. 22, 1998, § 502.68(a)(3) was revised, effective Nov. 2, 1998. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 502.68 Declaratory orders and fee.

(a) * * *

(3) Petitions shall be accompanied by remittance of a \$162 filing fee.

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§ 502.69 Petitions—general and fee.

(a) Except when submitted in connection with a formal proceeding, all claims for relief or other affirmative action by the Commission, including appeals from Commission staff action,